

### REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, and 16 stand rejected, claims 4, 6-7, 10-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and claim 17 is allowed. By this amendment, claim 1 is cancelled, claims 2-16 are amended, and claims 18-21 are newly added, leaving claims 2-21 pending in the present application.

New claims 18-21 find support in the as-filed specification, drawings, and claims, particularly with reference to Figs. 4-7. For example, Figs. 4-7 depict a power switching module (10) comprising a spacer (130) at least one pair of power switches (e.g., 20-23 and 110-113) disposed along the spacer, and first and second channels (96, 116). The spacer has first and second passages (voids) (133, 134) disposed on opposite sides of the spacer. In each pair of power switches, the first power switch (e.g., any of 20-23) is positioned on the first side of the spacer such that a first wall (60) of the first power switch is cooled by the cooling medium in the first passage (134), and the second power switch (e.g., any of 110-113) is positioned on the second side of the spacer such that a first wall (60) of the second power switch is cooled by the cooling medium in the second passage (133). The first channel (116) is positioned proximate a second wall (50) of the first power switch such that the second wall of the first power switch is cooled by the cooling medium in the first channel, and the second channel (96) is positioned proximate a second wall (50) of the second power switch such that the second wall of the second power switch is cooled by the cooling medium in the second channel. As shown in Figs. 4-7 and described at page 8, line 30 to page 9, line 6, the substrates (walls) (50) of the first power switches (20-23) may be aligned in a common plane, and the substrates (walls) (50) of the second power switches may be aligned in a second common plane.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,003,376 to Iversen (Iversen). This rejection is hereinafter traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been cancelled, rendering the rejection of this claim moot. New independent claims 18 and 21 are directed to a power switching module comprising, *inter alia*, a spacer having a first passage disposed on a first side of the spacer, and a second passage disposed on a second side of the spacer opposite the first side of the

spacer, with a first power switch positioned on the first side of the spacer such that a first wall of the first power switch is cooled by the cooling medium in the first passage, and a second power switch positioned on the second side of the spacer such that a first wall of the second power switch is cooled by the cooling medium in the second passage. In Iversen, on the other hand, no spacer is used between the semiconductor devices, much less a spacer having a first passage disposed on a first side of the spacer, and a second passage disposed on a second side of the spacer opposite the first side of the spacer, as recited in Applicant's claim 18. Accordingly, for at least this reason, Applicant's new claims 18 and 21, and claims 2-16, 19, and 20 which variably depend therefrom, are allowable over Iversen.

Also in the Office Action, claims 3, 5, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iversen in view of US Patent No. 5,504,378 to Lindberg et al. (Lindberg et al.). More specifically, it is alleged that Iversen teaches each limitation of this claim except for a heat sink, which is allegedly taught by Lindberg et al. This rejection is hereinafter traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested for the reasons discussed above with respect to Iversen. That is, Iversen fails to teach or suggest a power switching module comprising, *inter alia*, a spacer having a first passage disposed on a first side of the spacer, and a second passage disposed on a second side of the spacer opposite the first side of the spacer, with a first power switch positioned on the first side of the spacer such that a first wall of the first power switch is cooled by the cooling medium in the first passage, and a second power switch positioned on the second side of the spacer such that a first wall of the second power switch is cooled by the cooling medium in the second passage, as recited in new claim 18, from which claims 3, 5, and 9 depend. Lindberg et al. fails to cure this deficiency. Accordingly, Applicant's claims 3, 5, and 9 are allowable over Iversen in view of Lindberg et al.

Furthermore, claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iversen. More specifically, it is alleged that Iversen teaches each limitation of this claim except that the height of the upper and lower passages are not greater than 1mm. This rejection is hereinafter traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested for the reasons discussed above. That is, Iversen fails to teach or suggest a power switching module comprising, *inter alia*, a spacer having a first passage disposed on a first side of the spacer, and a second passage disposed on a second side of the spacer opposite the first side of the spacer, with a first power

switch positioned on the first side of the spacer such that a first wall of the first power switch is cooled by the cooling medium in the first passage, and a second power switch positioned on the second side of the spacer such that a first wall of the second power switch is cooled by the cooling medium in the second passage, as recited in new claim 18, from which claim 16 depends. Accordingly, Applicant's claim 16 is allowable over Iversen.

Applicants submit that new claims 2-21 patentably define over the prior art of record and are allowable. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and early action toward that end is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the foregoing remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a discussion with Applicant's attorney would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Examiner hereby authorized to apply any credits or charge any deficiencies related to this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 03-2578.

Respectfully submitted,



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